

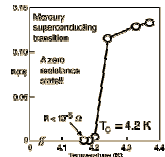


Special topic: Electromagnetic properties of superconductors

Ref: D. Teplitz, editor, Electromagnetism – paths to research, Plenum Press (1982); Chapter 1 written by Brian Schwartz and Sonia Frota-Pessoa

History:

- 1908 H. Kamerlingh Onnes successfully liquified He
- 1911 H. Kamerlingh Onnes discovered that Hg at 4.2 K has vanishing resistance
- 1957 Theory of superconductivity by Bardeen, Cooper, and Schrieffer



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Behavior of superconducting material – exclusion of magnetic field according to the London model

Penetration length for superconductor:  $\lambda_L^2 \equiv \frac{mc^2}{4\pi ne^2}$

$B_z(x,t) = B_z(0,t)e^{-x/\lambda_L}$

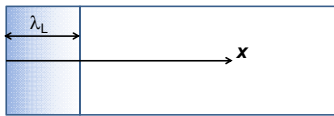
Vector potential for  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0$ :

$\mathbf{A} = \hat{y} A_y(x) \quad A_y(x) = -\lambda_L B_z(0)e^{-x/\lambda_L}$

Current density:  $J_y(x) = \lambda_L \frac{ne^2}{mc} B_z(0)e^{-x/\lambda_L}$

$\Rightarrow \mathbf{J} + \frac{ne^2}{mc} \mathbf{A} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{ne}{m} \left( m\mathbf{v} + \frac{e}{c} \mathbf{A} \right) = 0$

Typically,  $\lambda_L \approx 10^{-7} m$



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Behavior of magnetic field lines near superconductor

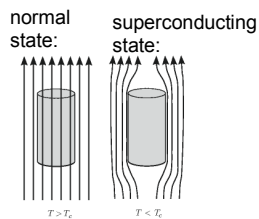


Figure 18.2 Exclusion of a weak external magnetic field from the interior of a superconductor.

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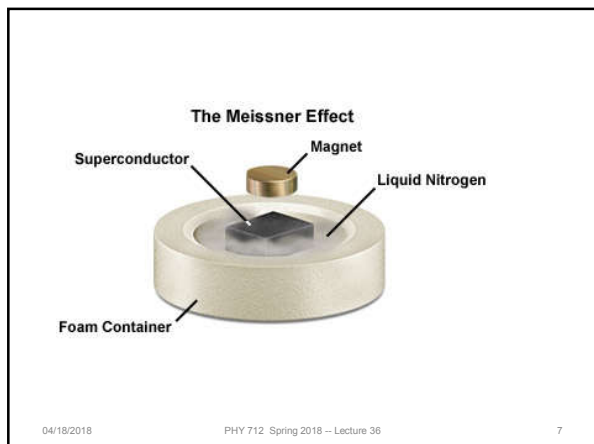
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PHYSICAL REVIEW VOLUME 108, NUMBER 5 DECEMBER 1, 1957

**Theory of Superconductivity\***

J. BARDEEN, L. N. COOPER,† and J. R. SCHRIEFFER‡  
 Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois  
 (Received July 8, 1957)

$$G_S(0) - G_N(0) = -\frac{H_c^2}{8\pi} \approx -2N(E_F)(\hbar\omega)^2 e^{-2/(N(E_F)V)}$$

characteristic phonon energy

density of electron states at  $E_F$

attraction potential between electron pairs

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Temperature dependence of critical field

$$H_c(T) \approx H_c(0) \left( 1 - \left( \frac{T}{T_c} \right)^2 \right)$$

From PR 108, 1175 (1957)  
 Bardeen, Cooper, and Schrieffer, "Theory of Superconductivity"

Theory  $1 - (T/T_c)^2$

$$T_c \approx \frac{\hbar\omega}{k} e^{-2/(N(E_F)V)}$$

characteristic phonon energy

density of electron states at  $E_F$

attraction potential between electron pairs

FIG. 2. Ratio of the critical field to its value at  $T=0^\circ\text{K}$  vs  $(T/T_c)^2$ . The upper curve is the  $1 - (T/T_c)^2$  law of the Gorter-Casimir theory and the lower curve is the law predicted by the theory in the weak-coupling limit. Experimental values generally lie between the two curves.

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**Type I superconductors:**

$$H_c(T) = H_c(0) \left(1 - \frac{T^2}{T_c^2}\right)$$

Figure 18.3 Schematic phase diagram illustrating normal and superconducting regions of a type-I superconductor.

Figure 18.4 Magnetization versus applied field for type-I superconductors.

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**Type II superconductors**

Figure 18.5 Schematic phase diagram illustrating normal, mixed and Meissner regions of a type-II superconductor (the vanishingly small resistivity of the mixed state occurs if flux lines are "pinned" by appropriate material defects); in the mixed state,  $\langle B \rangle$  denotes the average magnetic field in the superconductor.

Figure 18.6 Magnetization versus applied field  $H$  for a type-II superconductor. The equivalent area construction of the thermodynamic field  $H_c(T)$  is also illustrated.

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**Quantization of current flux associated with the superconducting state (Ref: Ashcroft and Mermin, *Solid State Physics*)**

From the London equations for the interior of the superconductor:

$$\left(m\mathbf{v} + \frac{e}{c}\mathbf{A}\right) = 0$$

Now suppose that the current carrier is a pair of electrons characterized by a wavefunction of the form  $\psi = |\psi|e^{i\phi}$

The quantum mechanical current associated with the electron pair is

$$\mathbf{j} = -\frac{e\hbar}{2mi}(\psi^*\nabla\psi - \psi\nabla\psi^*) - \frac{2e^2}{mc}\mathbf{A}|\psi|^2$$

$$= -\left(\frac{e\hbar}{m}\nabla\phi + \frac{2e^2}{mc}\mathbf{A}\right)|\psi|^2$$

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Quantization of current flux associated with the superconducting state -- continued



Suppose a superconducting material has a cylindrical void. Evaluate the integral of the current in a closed path within the superconductor containing the void.

$$\oint \mathbf{j} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = 0 = -\oint \left( \frac{e\hbar}{m} \nabla\phi + \frac{2e^2}{mc} \mathbf{A} \right) |\psi|^2 \cdot d\mathbf{l}$$

$$\oint \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{l} = \int (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}) \cdot d\mathbf{a} = \int \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{a} = \Phi \quad \text{magnetic flux}$$

$$\oint \nabla\phi \cdot d\mathbf{l} = 2\pi n \quad \text{for some integer } n$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Quantization of flux in the void: } |\Phi| = n \frac{hc}{2e} \equiv n\Phi_0$$

Such "vortex" fields can exist within type II superconductors.

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**Table 18.1** Critical temperature of some selected superconductors, and zero-temperature critical field. For elemental materials, the thermodynamic critical field  $H_c(0)$  is given in gauss. For the compounds, which are type-II superconductors, the upper critical field  $H_{c2}(0)$  is given in Tesla ( $1 \text{ T} = 10^4 \text{ G}$ ). The data for metallic elements and binary compounds of V and Nb are taken from G. Burns (1992). The data for  $\text{MgB}_2$  and iron pnictide are taken from the references cited in the text, and refer to the two principal crystallographic axes. The data for the other compounds are taken from D. R. Harshman and A. P. Mills, Phys. Rev. B 45, 10684 (1992). A more extensive list of data can be found in the mentioned references.

Material	$T_c$ (K)	$H_c(0)$ (gauss)
<b>Metallic elements</b>		
Al	1.17	105
Sn	3.72	305
Pb	7.19	803
Hg	4.15	411
Nb	9.25	2060
V	5.40	1410
<b>Binary compounds</b>		
	$T_c$ (K)	$H_{c2}(0)$ (Tesla)
$\text{V}_3\text{Ga}$	16.5	27
$\text{V}_3\text{Si}$	17.1	25
$\text{Nb}_3\text{Al}$	20.3	34
$\text{Nb}_3\text{Ge}$	23.3	38
$\text{MgB}_2$	40	$\approx 5$ ; $\approx 20$
<b>Other compounds</b>		
	$T_c$ (K)	$H_{c2}(0)$ (Tesla)
$\text{UPt}_3$ (heavy fermion)	0.53	2.1
$\text{PbMo}_6\text{S}_8$ (Chevrel phase)	12	55
$\kappa$ - $(\text{BEDT}-\text{TF})_x\text{Cu}(\text{NCS})_2$ (organic phase)	10.5	$\approx 10$
$\text{Rb}_2\text{C}_{60}$ (fullerene)	31.3	$\approx 30$
$\text{NiFeAsO}_{0.7}\text{F}_{0.3}$ (iron pnictide)	47	$\approx 30$ ; $\approx 50$
<b>Cuprate oxides</b>		
	$T_c$ (K)	$H_{c2}(0)$ (Tesla)
$\text{La}_{2-x}\text{Sr}_x\text{CuO}_4$ ( $x \approx 0.15$ )	38	$\approx 45$
$\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$	92	$\approx 140$
$\text{Bi}_2\text{Sr}_2\text{CaCu}_2\text{O}_8$	89	$\approx 107$
$\text{Tl}_2\text{Ba}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_{10}$	125	$\approx 75$

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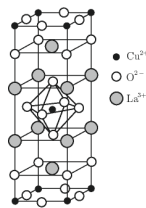
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Crystal structure of one of the high temperature superconductors



**Figure 18.1** Crystal structure of the ceramic material  $\text{La}_2\text{CuO}_4$ . Appropriately doped, lanthanum-based cuprates opened the path to high- $T_c$  superconductivity in 1986.

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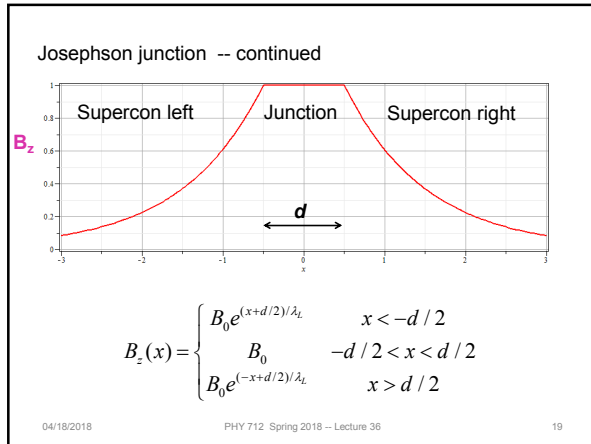
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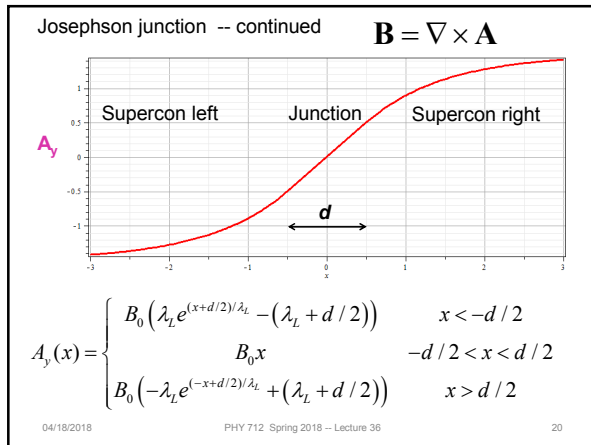
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Josephson junction -- continued

Quantum mechanical model of tunnelling current

Let  $\Psi_L = \Psi_L^0 e^{i\phi_L}$  denote a wavefunction for a Cooper pair on left

Let  $\Psi_R = \Psi_R^0 e^{i\phi_R}$  denote a wavefunction for a Cooper pair on right

$$-i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi_L}{\partial t} = E_L \Psi_L + \epsilon \Psi_R$$

$$-i\hbar \frac{\partial \Psi_R}{\partial t} = E_R \Psi_R + \delta \Psi_L$$

Coupling parameter

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Josephson junction -- continued

Solving for wavefunctions

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial |\Psi_L^0|^2}{\partial t} + i |\Psi_L^0|^2 \frac{\partial \phi_L}{\partial t} = -\frac{i}{\hbar} (E_L |\Psi_L^0|^2 + \varepsilon \Psi_L^0 \Psi_R^0 e^{i(\phi_R - \phi_L)})$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial |\Psi_R^0|^2}{\partial t} + i |\Psi_R^0|^2 \frac{\partial \phi_R}{\partial t} = -\frac{i}{\hbar} (E_R |\Psi_R^0|^2 + \varepsilon \Psi_L^0 \Psi_R^0 e^{-i(\phi_R - \phi_L)})$$

$$|\Psi_L^0|^2 \equiv n_L \quad |\Psi_R^0|^2 \equiv n_R \quad \phi_{LR} \equiv \phi_L - \phi_R$$

$$\frac{\partial n_L}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial n_R}{\partial t} = -\frac{2\varepsilon}{\hbar} \sqrt{(n_L n_R)} \sin \phi_{LR}$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi_L}{\partial t} = -\frac{E_L}{\hbar} - \varepsilon \sqrt{\frac{n_R}{n_L}} \cos \phi_{LR}$$

$$\frac{\partial \phi_R}{\partial t} = -\frac{E_R}{\hbar} - \varepsilon \sqrt{\frac{n_L}{n_R}} \cos \phi_{LR}$$

Note that  $\frac{\partial \phi_{LR}}{\partial t} = -\frac{1}{\hbar} (E_L - E_R)$

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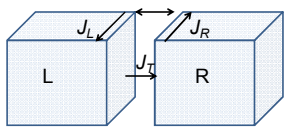
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Josephson junction -- continued

Tunneling current:  $J_T = 2e \frac{\partial n_L}{\partial t} = -\frac{4e\varepsilon}{\hbar} \sqrt{(n_L n_R)} \sin \phi_{LR}$

If  $n_L = n_R$  and in absense of magnetic field,  $\phi_{LR}(t) = \phi_{LR}(0) + \frac{E_R - E_L}{\hbar} t$



$$\Rightarrow J_L = \frac{2e}{2m} |\Psi_L^0|^2 \left( \hbar \nabla \phi_L - \frac{2e}{c} \mathbf{A} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow J_R = \frac{2e}{2m} |\Psi_R^0|^2 \left( \hbar \nabla \phi_R - \frac{2e}{c} \mathbf{A} \right)$$

Relationship between superconductor currents  $J_L$  and  $J_R$  and tunneling current. Within the superconductor, denote the generalized current operator acting on pair wavefunction  $\Psi = \Psi^0 e^{i\phi}$

$$J = \frac{2e}{2} \left( \Psi^* (\hat{v}\Psi) + \Psi (\hat{v}\Psi)^* \right) \text{ with } \hat{v} \equiv \frac{1}{2m} \left( -i\hbar \nabla - \frac{2e}{c} \mathbf{A} \right)$$

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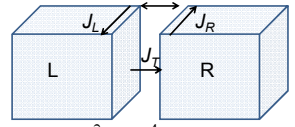
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Josephson junction -- continued



Tunneling current:  $J_T = 2e \frac{\partial n_L}{\partial t} = -\frac{4e\varepsilon}{\hbar} \sqrt{(n_L n_R)} \sin \phi_{LR}$

If  $n_L = n_R = n$  and in absense of magnetic field,  $\phi_{LR}(t) = \phi_{LR}(0) + \frac{E_R - E_L}{\hbar} t$

$\Rightarrow$  Constant Josephson tunneling current for  $E_R - E_L = 0$

$$J_T = -\frac{4e\varepsilon}{\hbar} n \sin \phi_{LR}(0)$$

$\Rightarrow$  Oscillatory Josephson tunneling current for  $E_R - E_L = 2eV$

$$J_T = -\frac{4e\varepsilon}{\hbar} n \sin \left( \phi_{LR}(0) + \frac{2eV}{\hbar} t \right)$$

Method for precise measurement of  $e/h$

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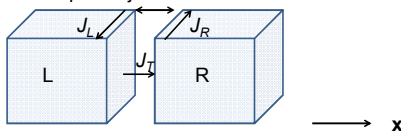
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Josephson junction -- continued



$$\Rightarrow J_L = \frac{2e}{2m} |\Psi_L^0|^2 \left( \hbar \nabla \phi_L - \frac{2e}{c} \mathbf{A} \right) \equiv 2en_L \mathbf{v}_L$$

$$\Rightarrow J_R = \frac{2e}{2m} |\Psi_R^0|^2 \left( \hbar \nabla \phi_R - \frac{2e}{c} \mathbf{A} \right) \equiv 2en_R \mathbf{v}_R$$

$$\nabla \phi_L = \frac{2m\mathbf{v}_L}{\hbar} + \frac{2e}{\hbar c} \mathbf{A} \quad \nabla \phi_R = \frac{2m\mathbf{v}_R}{\hbar} + \frac{2e}{\hbar c} \mathbf{A}$$

Tunneling current:  $J_T = 2e \frac{\partial n_L}{\partial t} = -\frac{4e\epsilon}{\hbar} \sqrt{(n_L n_R)} \sin \phi_{LR}$

Need to evaluate  $\phi_{LR}$  in presence of magnetic field

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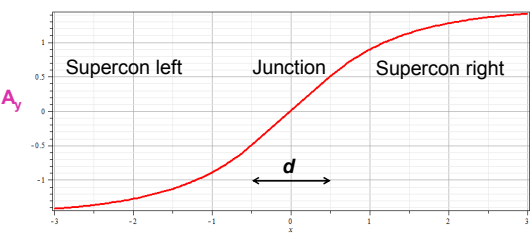
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Josephson junction -- continued  $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$



$$A_y(x) = \begin{cases} B_0 (\lambda_L e^{(x+d/2)/\lambda_L} - (\lambda_L + d/2)) & x < -d/2 \\ B_0 x & -d/2 < x < d/2 \\ B_0 (-\lambda_L e^{-(x+d/2)/\lambda_L} + (\lambda_L + d/2)) & x > d/2 \end{cases}$$

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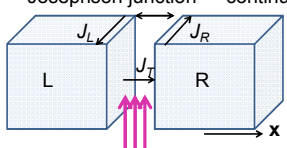
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Josephson junction -- continued



Tunneling current:  $J_T = -\frac{4e\epsilon}{\hbar} \sqrt{(n_L n_R)} \sin \phi_{LR}$

$$\mathbf{v}_L = \left( \frac{\hbar}{2m} \nabla \phi_L - \frac{2e}{2mc} \mathbf{A} \right)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_R = \left( \frac{\hbar}{2m} \nabla \phi_R - \frac{2e}{2mc} \mathbf{A} \right)$$

Recall that for  $x \rightarrow -\infty$   $\mathbf{v}_L \rightarrow 0$  and  $\mathbf{A} \rightarrow -(\lambda_L + d/2) B_0 \hat{\mathbf{y}}$   
 for  $x \rightarrow \infty$   $\mathbf{v}_R \rightarrow 0$  and  $\mathbf{A} \rightarrow (\lambda_L + d/2) B_0 \hat{\mathbf{y}}$

Integrating the difference of the phase angles along  $y$ :

$$\phi_{LR} \equiv \phi_L \left( -\frac{d}{2}, y \right) - \phi_L \left( -\frac{d}{2}, 0 \right) - \phi_R \left( \frac{d}{2}, y \right) + \phi_R \left( \frac{d}{2}, 0 \right)$$

$$= \phi_{LR}^0 + \frac{2e}{\hbar c} B_0 (2\lambda_L + d) y$$

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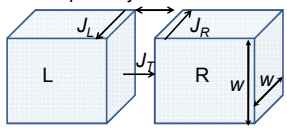
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Josephson junction -- continued



Integrating the difference of the phase angles along  $y$ :

$$\phi_{LR} = \phi_{LR}^0 + \frac{2e}{\hbar c} B_0 (2\lambda_L + d)y$$

Tunneling current density:  $J_T = \frac{4e\epsilon}{\hbar} n_L \sin \phi_{LR} = J_{T0} \sin \left( \phi_{LR}^0 + \frac{2e}{\hbar c} B_0 (2\lambda_L + d)y \right)$

Integrating current density throughout width  $w$  of superconductors

$$I_T = w \int_{-w/2}^{w/2} J_T dy$$

$$= \frac{wJ_{T0}}{\frac{2e}{\hbar c} B_0 (2\lambda_L + d)} \left( \cos \left( \phi_{LR}^0 - \frac{ew}{\hbar c} B_0 (2\lambda_L + d) \right) - \cos \left( \phi_{LR}^0 + \frac{ew}{\hbar c} B_0 (2\lambda_L + d) \right) \right)$$

Define:  $\Phi = B_0 w (2\lambda_L + d)$  and  $\Phi^0 = \frac{2\pi\hbar c}{2e} \Rightarrow \frac{ew}{\hbar c} B_0 (2\lambda_L + d) = \frac{\pi\Phi}{\Phi^0}$

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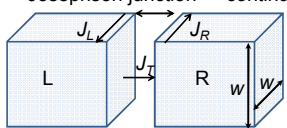
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Josephson junction -- continued



Integrating the difference of the phase angles along  $y$ :

$$\phi_{LR} = \phi_{LR}^0 + \frac{2e}{\hbar c} B_0 (2\lambda_L + d)y$$

Integrating current density throughout width  $w$  of superconductors

$$I_T = w \int_{-w/2}^{w/2} J_T dy =$$

$$= \frac{wJ_{T0}}{\frac{2e}{\hbar c} B_0 (2\lambda_L + d)} \left( \cos \left( \phi_{LR}^0 - \frac{ew}{\hbar c} B_0 (2\lambda_L + d) \right) - \cos \left( \phi_{LR}^0 + \frac{ew}{\hbar c} B_0 (2\lambda_L + d) \right) \right)$$

$$= w^2 J_{T0} \sin(\phi_{LR}^0) \frac{\sin(\pi\Phi / \Phi^0)}{\pi\Phi / \Phi^0}$$

where  $\Phi = B_0 w (2\lambda_L + d)$  and  $\Phi^0 = \frac{2\pi\hbar c}{2e}$

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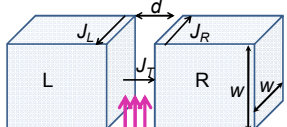
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Josephson junction -- continued



Tunneling current density:  $J_T = \frac{4e\epsilon}{\hbar} n_L \sin \phi_{LR}$

Integrating current density throughout width  $w$  of superconductors

$$I_T = w \int_{-w/2}^{w/2} J_T dy = w^2 J_{T0} \sin(\phi_{LR}^0) \frac{\sin(\pi\Phi / \Phi^0)}{\pi\Phi / \Phi^0}$$

where  $\Phi = B_0 w (2\lambda_L + d)$  and  $\Phi^0 = \frac{2\pi\hbar c}{2e}$

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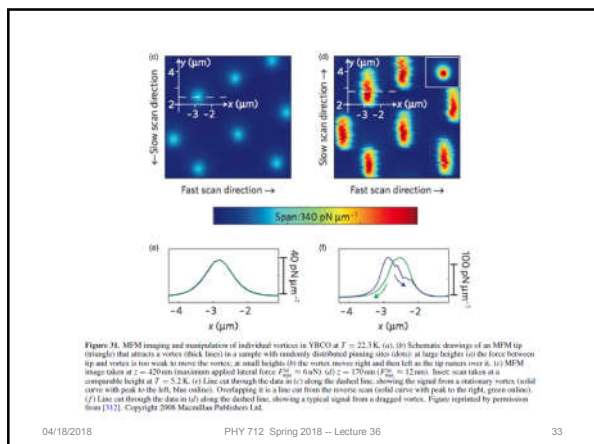
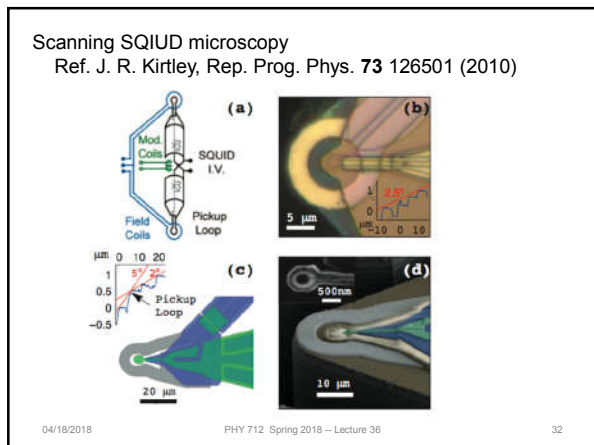
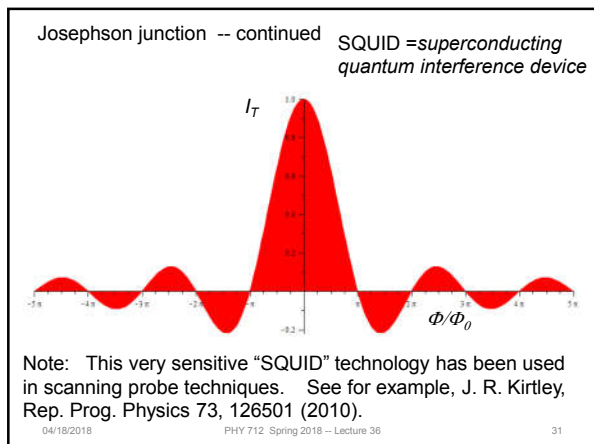
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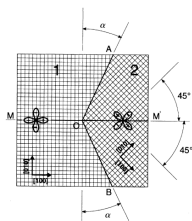
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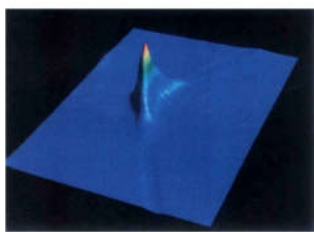
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**Figure 1** Schematic diagram illustrating the geometrical configuration of a bicrystal (100) SrTiO<sub>3</sub> substrate, which effectively consists of two crystals rotated about the normal to the substrate plane by  $\pm\alpha$  with respect to each other. For a given total misorientation angle  $\theta = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2$ , the grain-tunneling current is maximised for a symmetric grain boundary  $\theta = \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \theta/2$ . We chose the angle  $\alpha = 20^\circ$  between the vertical [001] direction (1) and the grain boundaries (OA and OB) in 2D. Also shown are the polar plots of the assumed  $d_{xy}$  gap functions aligned with the crystallographic axes in the substrate.



**Figure 3** A three-dimensional presentation of the STM image of the Josephson vortex trapped at the wedge tip in a TlQZnO blanket film deposited on a bicrystal (100) SrTiO<sub>3</sub> substrate of the geometry shown in Fig. 1. The sample was cooled in a field of  $<1$  mG and imaged at 4.2 K.

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